

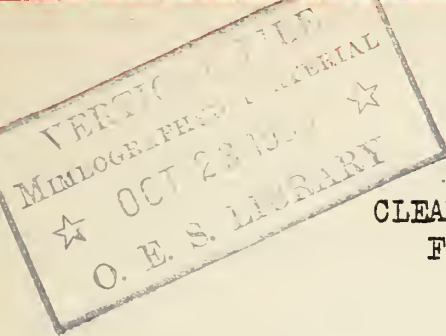
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CLEANING AND RESHAPING FELT HATS A HOME CHORE

By midsummer a light-colored or white felt hat may look a little the worse for wear. It is possible to dry-clean it at home, says _____ (Name) _____ of _____ (Title) _____ (Institution). Use carbon tetrachloride, one of the best dry-cleaning solvents, because it is noninflammable. It should be used in a well-ventilated place, however, and there should be enough on hand so that the hat may be dipped into two separate bowls. Miss _____ (Name) makes the following suggestions:

Any changes needed in the shape of the hat other than creases or tucks put in after blocking, should be made before cleaning. Then brush the hat well, dip in the dry-cleaning solvent, brush well with a soft brush, and rinse thoroughly in fresh solvent.

While the hat is still saturated with carbon tetrachloride, dust over it a thick layer of an absorbent material such as French chalk, powdered magnesia, cornstarch, or white talcum powder. Let the hat lie in a covered box overnight. In the morning, shake off the loose powder, let dry, and then brush off the remaining powder. Rubbing the hat with fine sandpaper improves it. Sometimes the dusting treatment without the dip in the solvent is enough for a light-colored felt.

If the hat needs reblocking, use a round bowl or deep saucepan somewhere near your headsize for a mold. First stretch a clean cloth over the bowl, pinning the corners underneath. This gives something to fasten the padding to.

Pad the mold until it is the right size and shape and cover smoothly with a piece of muslin.

The hat must be thoroughly moist before blocking. Steam it from the inside by holding it over the spout of a steaming teakettle. then stretch it over the mold, pushing and pulling it into shape until it fits the mold smoothly and snugly. Tie a cord tightly at the head size line to hold it in place.

Continue to steam the felt and push and stretch it until it comes to the desired shape. Do not remove from the block until the felt is thoroughly dry. The brim may be stretched and worked by hand and pressed with a warm iron. Rub the hat lightly with sandpaper and finish by brushing with a soft brush. Begin at the tip of the crown and brush around and around in one direction working outward until the entire surface is smooth.

Sometimes a felt brim can be given a fresher look if the edge is trimmed a little. Lay it on a flat surface and cut with a razor blade held at right angles.

To clean a panama hat, try washing it in a suds of lukewarm water and neutral soap, with a soft cloth in the suds, and scrub the hat lightly until it is clean. Then rinse thoroughly to remove all the soap and lay hat in the shade to drain for a short time before blocking. The brim must be pressed. To prevent scorching when pressing, use a dry cloth and a wet cloth laid over it.

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